



*The*  
**Bramley**  
FOR BRAMLEY AND  
LITTLE LONDON  
*Magazine*

FREE

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May 2014



**Bramley Fun Day**  
**Saturday 7th June**  
See inside for more details

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# The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and  
Little London

**May 2014**

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**Material for the June issue to be sent  
to the editor as soon as possible and  
no later than Thursday 15th May**

## Editorial

I love this time of year ... full of the promise of new beginnings. Days are longer and warmer, flowers burst free from their wintry prison and the Easter holidays have provided hope, rest - and chocolate! It's certainly a time of new beginnings for me as I take over from Rachel Holland as editor of Bramley Magazine. I'm sure you'll all join me in thanking Rachel for her fantastic work, taking this from a small, subscription journal to a free magazine delivered to the entire village. I'm delighted to say Rachel is staying with us as Assistant Editor.

### Think nothing much happens in Bramley?

Well, just wait for the Family Fun Day on Saturday 7th June (see p19). There'll be everything from a Talent Show to a Bucking Bronco; from Teddy Bears to Tug-o-War, all accompanied by lovely food & drink, plus a nostalgic wartime singalong.

### "It wouldn't happen here"

If you read about crime and think "it wouldn't happen here", think again. Hampshire police say two types of fraud are on the rise in our area (see p9 and p33) and at least one couple in Bramley have already been targeted. Please do take care and look out for elderly friends and neighbours, who are often seen as easy targets.

### I bet you a box of chocolates you don't read this!

Bramley Magazine is for you, about you and we'd love to have more of you in it. We want to hear your news and your views. Done something worthwhile or interesting? Tell us about it! Want to see more - or less - of certain articles? Let us know. Email your thoughts or stories to [editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk](mailto:editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk) or write them down and leave them in the Bramley Magazine box at the back of Bramley Church. One new contributor will be chosen at random to receive a box of chocolates, so be sure to give us your contact details.

### And finally ...

I had a fabulous time meeting some of you at the Bramley Easter Egg Hunt. I hope you enjoy our special colour photo spread on the centre page!

Sarah Mitchell

Editor, Bramley Magazine

" 'For I know the plans I have for you', declares the Lord. 'Plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope' " Jeremiah 29v11 (NLT)

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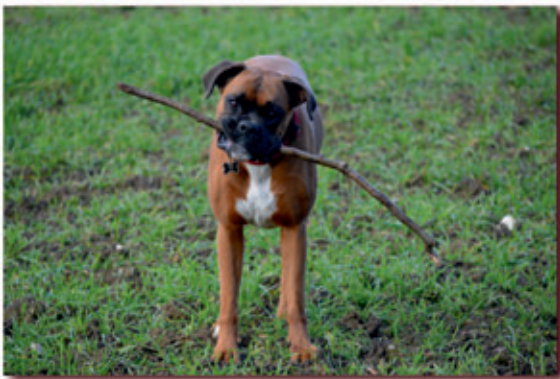
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## Church diary for May...

4th	3rd Sunday of Easter
9.00	Holy Communion – Little London
10.30	Matins (BCP, 1662) – Bramley
11th	4th Sunday of Easter
10.30	Holy Communion – Bramley
18th	5th Sunday of Easter
8.00	Holy Communion (BCP, 1662) – Bramley
10.30	Family Service
25th	6th Sunday of Easter
10.30	Family Communion – Bramley
29th	Ascension Day
19.30	Holy Communion – Bramley

## ...And into June

1st	Sunday after Ascension Day
9.00	Holy Communion – Little London
10.30	Matins (BCP, 1662) – Bramley
8th	Pentecost
10.30	Holy Communion – Bramley

## Service changes

Please note that Holy Communion at Little London is now held at 9.00am on the first Sunday of the month. Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer is now held at 8.00am on the third Sunday of the month in Bramley.

## Catholic services

### Basingstoke

Church of St Bede, Popley Way, RG24 9DX  
Sunday Mass: 9.00 am, 11.00 am and 6.30 pm in St Bede's  
Mass usually: Tues, Thurs and Sat 9.30 am in St Bede's  
Holy Ghost Church, Sherborne Road, RG21 5TX:  
Mass usually: Mon, Wed, Fri 9.30 am in Holy Ghost Church  
Phone 01256 465214 OR email [stbedes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stbedes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) for information  
See [www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk](http://www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk)

### Tadley

St Michael's Church, Bishopswood Road,  
RG26 4HG  
Saturday Mass: 6.00 pm  
Sunday Mass: 9.30 am  
Parish priest: 0118 9814572

## Church of England services

### Bramley - St James

10.30am Sunday Service  
8.00am Communion every 3rd Sunday  
[www.stjamesbramley.com](http://www.stjamesbramley.com)



### Little London - St Stephen's

9.00am Communion every 1st Sunday

### Minister: The Reverend John Lenton

The Vicarage, Silchester Rd, Bramley RG26 5DQ  
880570 [john.lenton@gmail.com](mailto:john.lenton@gmail.com)

### PCC (Parochial Church Council):

Churchwarden, Miss Priscilla Hungerford 850934  
Churchwarden, Mr. Geoffrey Twine 881563  
Secretary, Mr. Arthur Rawlinson 889040  
Treasurer, Mr. Alex Marianos 881665

## Shell Club

Alison Jones



As the days get longer and warmer, the children seem to get even more lively. It's been a busy few weeks at Shell Club! The children loved collecting flowers for their mums

on Mother's Day and, even better, collecting Easter Eggs for themselves at the Easter Egg Hunt! Last year it was snowing for this well-loved event - what a pleasant change to be able to hunt outdoors in mild, bright sunshine.

We were blessed to have more than 40 children who all enjoyed games, colouring and face painting... you can see the fun for yourselves in our special photo feature on the centre pages!

Special thanks to Caroline Leach and her team for a fabulous morning.

Do come and join us if you have children between 3 and 10 years old, whether they live in Bramley or are visiting, it's always lovely to welcome new children. We meet in church each Sunday at 10.30am, then leave for Cross House and our own activities after the first hymn, except for Family Services (3rd Sunday of the month) when we all stay together.

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## Church, but not as we know it...

A year or so ago, there were press reports that an “atheists’ church” in North London was proving to be a big hit with non-believers. As the BBC reported, “...the Sunday Assembly is no ordinary church service. Launched last month as a gathering for non-believers, it is, in the words of master of ceremonies Sanderson Jones, ‘part foot-stomping show, part atheist church, all celebration of life.’” (1)

The Sunday Assembly advertises itself as “all the best bits of church, but with no religion, and awesome pop songs!” So whatever does it mean when it talks about “the best bits of church”? Well, according to the CNN Belief Blog, the things that appeal to people about church are “the sense of community, the weekly sermon, the scheduled time for reflection, the community service opportunities, the ethos of self-improvement, the singing and the free food – without God.” And that is what the Sunday Assembly set out to try to provide, with quite a bit of success... at least, for a little while.

Fascinating to report is the fact that just six months into its existence, the Atheist Church suffered a split. A breakaway group accused the original founders of not being sufficiently committed to atheism... soft-centred atheists. Critics called it “warm and fuzzy atheism, not-quite atheism; or at least a very subdued, milquetoast non-belief” (2). And so they launched their own brand of the Atheist Church, and they called it ‘Godless Revival’.

You couldn’t make it up, could you? All the things that Christians have been pilloried for over the years – their inability to get along with each other, quarrelling over details of their style of worship, criticising other members for their lack of commitment... are actually rearing their heads in the Atheist Church! And that’s after just six months. Astonishing.

All the same, I think that the Atheist Church may be onto something here. It’s true that people do

like some things about church – the sense of community, the singing, a bit of time for reflection and so on. Perhaps even the free food as well. But there are also some things they don’t like about church, things that put them off even putting a foot inside the door: not God Himself, no. It’s things like making you feel an outsider; weird language that’s difficult to follow or understand; the preacher who gets up and talks at you for 15 minutes or more, while everyone stays quiet and you don’t get the chance to ask questions or to

disagree with the point they’re making; or everyone else knowing when to stand up or sit down and you don’t know what is going to happen next. It’s easier just to walk away.

It’s those things, the things that embarrass or irritate or confuse people, rather than the fact that God is a core part of church, which cause them to reject church and miss out on the “best bits” that the Atheists are wanting to copy. In fact, people really don’t mind God; it’s His people they’re not so keen on.

So in Bramley, we’re going to do something about it. Not an Atheists’ Church, but what we’re going to call a Café Church. A convenient meeting place, the School Hall, where people can come along with the kids on a Saturday afternoon for 45 minutes or so, listen to some music and join in if they want to – or not, if they don’t; enjoy a good cup of tea or coffee and a slice of home-made cake, let the kids do some crafts and hear a story, and themselves have the chance to hear someone talk about real life, with plenty of opportunity to ask questions or

to put an objection. It’s church for people who don’t like church.

But the one sure thing is that God will be there, even though we won’t see Him. What we will see is the effect He has on us all as we meet there to think about Him and to find out what He’s really like.

So keep an eye out for announcements in the Bramley Magazine and posters around the village: we’d be really glad to see if you’ll come along!



Rev'd John Lenton

1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-21319945>

2. <http://religion.blogs.cnn.com/2014/01/04/after-a-schism-a-question-can-atheist-churches-last/>





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*'The Shoes' has had a recent spruce-up, under new management. London Pride, Doombar and Courage on top plus a decent pint of Guinness. The food was very good, clearly all freshly cooked ... I recommend a visit to eat or just for a few pints.*

**TripAdvisor**



On the first Tuesday of each month "The Shoes" plays host to a local Jazz Band ENQUINOX.



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## Bramley couple outwit fraudsters

Sarah Mitchell

A village couple have been targeted by fraudsters in a scam similar to the one in our Crimestoppers report below. “We received a ‘phone call from someone saying he was a police officer,” they told Bramley Magazine. “He said our bank card had been used in a fraud and the police needed some more information. We were suspicious and so we asked for proof that it was the police calling. We were told to hang up, dial 101 and ask for Hampshire police”.

101 is a genuine police number - and police say this is why this scam is so effective. If you hang up quickly and redial immediately, the criminals may still be on the line. They use a different person and

## Elderly at risk in bank card fraud

There has been a huge rise in ‘Courier Fraud’ across the area - primarily committed against elderly or more vulnerable people.

Generally, the fraudster rings the victim out of the blue. They often claim to be from the victim’s bank and ask various questions, ultimately asking for the card holder’s PIN. Other versions of the crime have the caller claiming to be a Police Officer who is apparently investigating card fraud and needs your assistance to investigate the matter.

The stories given down the phone vary, but usually it’s to the effect that some fraudulent activity has occurred on the victim’s card and the caller is ringing to put this matter right. They obtain the PIN during the conversation, and arrange to have the ‘bad’ card collected so it can be replaced with a new card.



The debit/credit card is collected, sometimes by an unwitting participant such as a taxi driver or a courier company. The card is taken to a pre-arranged location where the fraudster is then in possession of your card and the PIN.

Of course, no new card is en route and it is often several days before the person realises they have been the victim of a crime – often when they are contacted by their real bank to check why thousands of pounds have suddenly been spent on their account. Fraudsters tend to buy high value goods with the stolen cards, such as iPads, expensive watches and jewellery.

Hampshire Police is targeting these criminals. So if you have received a call trying to obtain your card details, even if you were wise enough to put the phone down and not disclose anything, please do report it.

answer as if they were the police. This reassures some victims, who then hand over their PIN and other security details.

The Bramley couple were very fortunate. “We hung up and waited for several minutes. Only when we heard the dialling tone, did we call 101. Of course, the police then confirmed that the earlier call was a hoax and we were able to report it.”

Our beat officers, James and Martyn, say Hampshire police are trying to crack down on this and other types of fraud (see the article on Rogue Traders on page 33). They urge everyone to take extra care and to report anything suspicious.

Simon Wright, PC 741

If you have elderly or more vulnerable friends, family or neighbours please do keep an eye out for them. They may be perceived to be generally less technologically aware, more trusting of someone ‘in authority’ or to have more disposable income and are therefore targeted by these criminals.

Remember, if you have information about any crime, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or click [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org) where you can also give details anonymously. For further Crimestoppers updates please follow me on Twitter [@HantsCrimestopp](https://twitter.com/HantsCrimestopp)

The poster is for a Safer Neighbourhoods Team meeting. It features a blue header with the text "Come and meet your Safer Neighbourhoods Team" and a logo for "SAFER Neighbourhoods". Below the header, it says "Visit [www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk) or call 101". The main content is on a yellow background with a white border, listing the date "Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014" and time "10:00 to 11:00". The location is "Bramley Bakery" with a list of following dates: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November, and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December. At the bottom of the yellow section, it says "PCSO James Rickaby 14877". The footer of the poster includes the text "If you have an issue or problem with anti-social behaviour, youth nuisance or any other matters, come along and speak to your local Neighbourhoods Team. Email us at: [james.rickaby@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:james.rickaby@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)" and logos for "101" and "HAMPSHIRE POLICE".

## News from the Butter Daisy nursery

Vicky Peterkin

**W**e've been able to go on lots of outings as the weather has been so good; picnics and games on the meadow and walks in the fields. The children have been talking a lot about holidays and how to get to places so, at their suggestion, the Pre-School Role-Play Loft has been changed to a travel agency and hotel. Our passports have been stamped many times and suitcases packed and unpacked!

In the younger suites we have been busy making things with various materials such as flour, water and gloop. Our babies have built on their experiences by continuing to feel and taste various fruits and vegetables, pineapple being a firm favourite! We have been busy little chefs cooking

every week; the children particularly enjoyed making Mother's Day cakes, muffin pizzas and spring vegetable quiches.

In May we look forward to continuing a spring theme with lots of planting. We will be showing off our lovely spring art work in our gallery and exploring poetry and rhymes. If you would like your child to join us, or for more information, you can either contact us on 01256 882515 or visit our website

[www.mydaisynursery.com](http://www.mydaisynursery.com).

We look forward to meeting you.



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***Please complete the form below and place it in the box at the back of Bramley Church (St James) by Friday 16th May***

**It is important that we know numbers attending so that we can provide the required resources on the day.**

**Please bring your Teddy Bear, your family and a picnic rug**

**Please note parents must attend and be responsible for their children during the picnic. Any donation on the day would be very much appreciated. Any profits will go to Bramley School Association, Clift Meadow Trust and St James Bramley.**



I confirm my child/children will be attending the Teddy Bear's picnic on 7th June at 2.00.  
 I understand that I must be responsible for them at all times on the day.

PRINT NAME ..... SIGNED ..... TELEPHONE.....

PRINT NAME(s) and AGE(s) OF CHILD/CHILDREN ATTENDING:

DIETARY NEEDS.....



## Meet the new Headteacher

This term, Bramley CofE Primary School welcomes its new Headteacher, Andrew Higgs. Bramley Magazine took the opportunity to ask him some questions, sent in by parents, residents - and children:

### “Tell us about yourself and your family.”

I have taught for the majority of my career in Church schools - from a junior school in Wokingham, through a large urban primary in Reading and to the village setting at Lambourn in West Berkshire. I have also worked in a very large urban community school during a time of rapid change with the school moving from special measures to good. I am married to Katy, a fellow teacher. We have two daughters, Sophie and Ella. We have extended family around the Berkshire and Hampshire area, plus a sister in law in New Zealand!

### “What made you want to come to Bramley?”

Firstly, the opportunity to lead a large Church school. Secondly, the depth of potential I saw when I read about and visited the school. Thirdly, I believe that every child has the right to an outstanding education; leading the drive for this at Bramley is a challenge I am ready for.

### “Why is it important to you to teach at a church school?”

Faith provides a centre point for our lives. It provides insight and meaning to the highs and lows of human existence. In a school, faith gives shape to the great questions of life and death, meaning and truth. It provides a language through which we can balance ourselves between the mind, the body and the spirit.

Faith, hope and love must be at the centre of all that we do. We must serve the community of Bramley, giving all an authentic experience of faith, a genuine exposure to the light of Christ and an absolute certainty that each of us is loved.

### “I would like to know how you plan to create a school Bramley is proud of?”

One is generally proud of something that goes well and in which you have made a contribution. My ambition for Bramley is that it will be a learning community where all contribute and all are valued. A learning community that never forgets its primary aim; to educate young people.

Each of us creates and sustains the community we are part of, through relationship. By willingly and wholeheartedly entering into relationship, what we enable for young people and children will be all the more nourishing. I will look to build relationships, extend how we contribute and deepen how the community enriches school life

### “How might you balance pressure to expand Bramley with wanting to keep the ‘village character’ of the school?”

I believe ‘village character’ is based on a shared identity and a shared purpose. Whether the school serves 600 children or 60, what I will always strive to do is to ensure that who we are and what we are is maintained and shared by everyone.

### “Do you plan to stay at Bramley for the long term?”

My professional intention is to secure sustained excellence at Bramley. Such conviction will need time and the significant talents of many people to be realised. This will include the whole community collaborating and securing the best for the children of Bramley. Professionally, I am committed to realising that sustained excellence.

### “What made you want to become a headteacher?”

As a teacher, you lead a class. With insight and collaboration, the group learn. As a headteacher, you lead a community. With collaboration and partnership, the community learns. It provides a sharper responsibility to strive for the best for every child.

I particularly like that moment when school is transformed by the life and energy of those it is established to serve; the children.



Meet the new Headteacher, Andrew Higgs

## **ANY QUESTIONS...about early learning?**

With so many conflicting news reports about what's best for preschool children, Bramley's nursery leaders will be answering your questions in the June issue. Please email: [editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk](mailto:editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk) OR put your questions in the 'Bramley Magazine' box in the Church.

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## 1st Bramley Brownies

Suzy Cox

2014 is an exciting year for Brownies – it is our 100th Birthday! We are celebrating with lots of fun activities and events.

We started the year working towards our Brownie Traditions badge; learning all about Brownies over the years, doing a quiz, singing new songs and learning some new knots (we even practised with strawberry laces – yummy!).

Our summer term looks to be even more action packed. We'll have a trip to the fire station and will be bringing the County Torch Relay through Bramley on Bank Holiday Monday (5th May). And, of course, there's our Big Brownie Birthday Party where we'll join more than 100 other Brownies to celebrate being 100!



Brownie traditions badge

## Bramley Church of England Primary School

Steve Moore, Acting Headteacher

**W**e began a busy build up to Easter by breaking the world record for the most people to simultaneously pop bubble wrap! The previous record was 399 - we had a grand total of 532. A big thank you to all those who took part and volunteered to officiate, everyone contributed to a fantastic experience. A special mention to Miss Laura Smith, who led the event brilliantly. Let's hope our record stays intact long enough to feature in this year's Guinness Book of World Records.



The Year 6 children finished the term with a trip to the Science Museum in London to see The Energy Show. There were lots of big bangs, fantastic flashes and exciting science. Continuing the same theme, the Year 5 pupils visited Reading College as

special guest judges and presented an award as part of Science and Engineering Week. All of the pupils were a credit to the school and to Bramley.

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 staged an excellent performance of 'The Last Monster in Scotland'. The Year 4 children had the exciting opportunity of working with West End actress, singer and dancer Rachel Stanley on the last day of term. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Lastly, a huge thank you must go to Rev'd John Lenton. As well as hosting Year 1 and Year 2 excursions to St James Church, Rev'd Lenton welcomed the entire school to an Easter Service. We fully appreciate his ongoing commitment in supporting the school.

Dr Nigel Fisher

## Helping Africa

**T**wo years ago the Clift Surgery started donating returned medicines to Inter Care. I would like to thank you for letting us have your unwanted medicines so that we can help people in Africa.

Inter Care is a unique charity that recycles medicines which would otherwise be sent to landfill or incinerated. It recycles quality patient-returned medicines from more than 1,200 UK GP practices. Medicines need to be at least 15 months from expiry.

There is no cost for the GP practice to register and send these medicines. They help reduce NHS disposal costs and the environmental impact of landfill.

Inter Care is a small charity which relies heavily upon around 60 volunteers. These medically trained volunteers screen and sort the medical supplies. They are regulated by the Environment Agency and have an MRHA License.

128 health units in rural Africa receive these much-needed medical supplies free of charge. Aid is sent to a designated 'receiver' who makes sure it goes direct to the health units to save lives. Each health unit receives two consignments of medical aid per year.

Inter Care offers long term support to these health units in six of the poorest countries in sub-Saharan Africa; Cameroon, Ghana, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Zambia. In many cases it supplies around 40% of the aid doctors in these countries need each year to save lives. To date, Inter Care has recycled nearly £11 million worth of aid. In the last year alone it has donated £697,081 worth of medicines to Africa.

People in these communities are extremely poor. Without Inter Care they would not have access to medical treatment that we so often take for granted in the UK. You can find out more about Inter Care at: <http://www.intercare.org.uk/>

## Spring at Little Apples!

Jo Whatley

Spring term at Little Apples passed so quickly, it's hard to believe we are already in May!

Last term we celebrated World Book Day by revisiting some favourite books; The Gruffalo, The Hungry Caterpillar and Hugless Douglas. The children made some beautiful crafts and masks and lots of them contributed to the giant Gruffalo now on display at the Village Hall.

We also thought about lots of traditional nursery rhymes and cooked lovely treats to accompany our rhymes, for example; jam tarts for the Queen of Hearts and porridge for Goldilocks. Cooking is a great way to introduce early maths as well as help develop motor skills and discuss scientific processes in very real, understandable terms.....and most importantly make something yummy!

Nursery rhymes reinforce early language learning and rhymes that play with nonsense, such as Hey

Diddle Diddle, are also an important part of early years learning. Regularly enjoying the old classics with your pre-school child at bedtime is a simple yet really significant way of supporting their development of language and communication.

The children also planted bulbs for Mother's Day and made some beautiful cards.

As the weather has finally started to improve, we have spent a lot of time outside; looking for signs of spring, chalking on the chalk boards, playing with bubbles and bikes, looking at worms and bugs and much more besides. We have had new wood chips

delivered to brighten up the outside play area and keep it safe and ordered lots of new garden toys. Many thanks to everyone who has supported our fundraising over the year and made this possible. Our next event will be a stay and play session on Friday May 23rd, open to any pre-school children and their parents or carers. For any information on this or any other aspect of Little Apples, please email Jo and Sian - [manager@littleapples.org](mailto:manager@littleapples.org)



**BRAMLEY FUN DAY**  
Saturday 7th June

Calling all Local Clubs, Charities and Small Businesses. Book your stall at the fun day by contacting Caroline at:  
[carolinesherls@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolinesherls@hotmail.co.uk)

**BRAMLEY FUN DAY**  
Saturday 7th June

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*"I STARTED RUNNING WITH BTR LAST AUGUST AND ACHIEVED PB IN A 5K PARK RUN. I IMPROVED MY HALF-MARATHON TIME BY 12 MINUTES AT READING AND ACHIEVED MY PERSONAL TARGET OF A SUB TWO HOUR TIME. AS A NEWCOMER, AND RUNNING NOVICE, I WAS MADE VERY WELCOME BY THE GROUP FROM THE START AND BENEFITED FROM ALL THE ENCOURAGEMENT, RACE ADVICE, TRAINING METHODS AND FITNESS THAT BEING PART OF THE BTR PROVIDES."*

**Michael H**

*"I RAN THE READING HALF MARATHON FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR. I'VE ONLY BEEN RUNNING FOR ABOUT A YEAR. I STARTED SO MY DAUGHTER AND I COULD RAISE MONEY FOR CANCER RESEARCH, AS HER BEST FRIEND DIED OF CANCER JUST A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO, AGED JUST 34. WE HAVE RAISED NEARLY £2000 THROUGH SPONSORED RUNS THIS YEAR - AND WE ARE PLANNING MORE!"*

**Karen W**

*"I RAN THE READING HALF MARATHON AND SET A NEW PERSONAL BEST! I PUT THIS DOWN TO THE AMOUNT OF RUNNING I HAVE DONE SINCE I JOINED BTR. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING BACK INTO TRAINING AND RUNNING, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE OTHER CLUB RUNNERS, AS I AIM TO COMPLETE IRONMAN UK ON 20TH JULY AND CHALLENGE WEYMOUTH ON THE 14TH SEPTEMBER. I AM REALLY PLEASED I JOINED: IT'S IMPROVED MY RUNNING AND ALLOWED ME TO GET TO KNOW OTHERS WITH SIMILAR HOBBIES. I EVEN CONVINCED MY WIFE TO JOIN, AND SHE LOVES IT TOO!"*

**Michael M**



## Iron Mum

Alison Jones

**Q**uick! If you haven't yet entered Bramley Iron Mum 2014, better hop to it: early-bird registration expires on 30 April, so if you want to enter at the discounted rate of £5 get your entry in now (see the website at <http://www.ironmum.co.uk>). This year's event will be on 6 September, so there's still lots of time to get in shape.

The first term of the training courses is now well underway, with a small group of Newbies and a larger intermediate group meeting every Monday evening (at 7pm and 7.30pm respectively). Each term is 8 weeks long; the next term begins Monday 26 May and finishes on Monday 14 July. Places are limited to a maximum of 12 for Newbies and 18 on

the intermediate course per term to ensure everyone gets a high level of individual support.

For more information, or to book your place, email Emma on [emmatraining@hotmail.com](mailto:emmatraining@hotmail.com).

Julie's free walking group is also going strong. All are welcome; meet on Clift Meadow by the Pavilion at 6.55pm, heading off at 7pm. For more details, email [mum.walking@gmail.com](mailto:mum.walking@gmail.com); follow [@mumswalking](https://twitter.com/mumswalking) on Twitter or see her Facebook page: Mums Walking for Fitness, Fun and Friendship!





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## Dead Wood

John Stubbs

Apparently the winter storms took down more trees in the UK than the Great Storm of 1987, which some of us may remember. Dreadful, huh? Well... no. Not so bad, really.

I guess most of us were pretty lucky around here, this time, as the lights weren't off nearly as long, and the trees that fell didn't all come down at the same time. Many did come down, though, and several of our landscapes are not the same. The thing is, taking a longer view, it's not a catastrophe; it's part of the process.

The term 'dead wood' is a bit dismissive: something we don't want or a waste of space – the term 'dead tree' now refers to an old-fashioned data storage medium that some say we no longer need. Without dead wood, though, no woodland could survive long term. The value of ancient woodland lies more in its accumulated rotten material than in the new trees. There are lots of reasons for this, of course, and they do get overlooked.

So occasional storms, uprooting a few trees, are a net benefit. The soil is lifted and mixed, and light is let in to foster new growth. Debris feeds the consumers; standing trees bring woodpeckers, hole-dwellers and the like. A mature tree may only have one third of its mass in the form of its own live cells; it may grow aerial roots to digest the older wood inside its trunk.

If you look at the picture here, you see a tree with more live cells than when it was thriving. Different organisms, of course, but all having a part to play. In the bad old days, woodland management meant removing any dead or dying wood and removing sources of fungal growth and insect larvae as if they were bad things. In the extreme, this had the effect of preventing the growth of saplings, leading to a marked age-gap in the population of the trees, sometimes even losing a species from the site.

All this complexity, in something as apparently straightforward as a bit of old woodland, makes the



This oak stands just within Bramley Frith: a tree like this can take longer to disappear than it did to grow.

For a start, there's the near perfect recycling of nutrients - including those that may take many years to put together due to being derived from specialised sources such as particular fungi, lichens and bacteria. Woodland may be rated as having poor soil, but that's a bit unfair: it might be poor for growing potatoes, but grand for birch trees. It can take hundreds of years to settle down and a range of woody debris - from partly rotted to freshly fallen - is essential to support the insects and animals that sustain a wood. There must be beetle grubs to chew the softening wood; pollen to attract insects; birds to carry seeds; worms to deal with leaves; digging animals to move soil; fungi to break stuff down; water movement to supply roots. Together, all can survive - cut some out and the others may fail.

present trend towards 'biodiversity offsetting' something of a pig in a poke. BOs, as they are called, mean that developers can claim to mitigate the adverse effects of building on a plot of woodland by simply replanting it in a more 'convenient' location. Perhaps it's not impossible that all the plants, soils and animals take kindly to re-location, but to my mind it's pretty unlikely. At best it would need detailed analysis, enormous attention to detail and long-term monitoring – certainly it could never be a quick fix. At worst it would be a total waste of resources, and this won't be clear until it's too late. We're told the grand plan is to plant a hundred new trees for every one removed from ancient woodland. But trees just don't work like that. Every oak tree gives us ten thousand acorns each year: how many of those grow to maturity?

## Spring has sprung at Clift Meadow

Simon Gill

With spring finally upon us, the Meadow is starting to return to its most useful purpose - a green haven of calm. Even after only a few days of sunshine, the Meadow is filling up with push-chairs and dog-walkers, and it's great to see it being used and enjoyed. The keen-eyed amongst us will have noticed we are the happy recipients of eight new trees, courtesy of Hampshire County Council, which were sited with careful consideration for the cricket pitch users. We have also received some bushes from the Council which will be placed around the Granary to soften the landscape.



On the subject of cricket, we are delighted to announce that, despite the elements, the pitch is being well maintained. Old Basing Cricket Club have asked if they can use it once more this year, the very purpose for which the land was originally

donated by the Clift brothers. In addition, we have refurbished the tennis courts, and the new surface is now ready for use. We would like to encourage as many people as possible to enjoy this terrific village asset. Further improvements, including outdoor exercise facilities, are planned

for the Meadow and we shall keep you abreast of these developments.

Inside the Pavilion we have installed a new oven. We are also very aware that, following the refurbishment, there have been concerns about noise levels. We have fitted some acoustic tiles which will help absorb the noise, to try to

ensure the Pavilion appeals to as many users as possible. We are delighted to welcome back Slimming World who will be enjoying the use of the Pavilion on Tuesdays.

# BRAMLEY FUN DAY

Saturday 7th June



## TUG OF WAR COMPETITION

Do you belong to the local cricket club or football team?

Are you in the WI, Iron Mums, Scouts, Guides, Brownies or Cubs?

Do you frequent the local pub, work in the bakery, the shop or the garage?

Are you part of any other group that could put together a team for a 'Tug of War' competition?

If you are interested please e-mail your details to:

**[bramleyfunday@gmail.com](mailto:bramleyfunday@gmail.com)**

We will contact you with more information nearer the time



Like the sound of a Fun Day on Clift Meadow? Read on.....

## **Bramley Fun Day – Saturday 7th June, from 12 noon**

**Activities and entertainment for everyone – yes, everyone!**

Bramley is in for a treat! A Fun Day for the whole village - thanks to a group of volunteers from the Clift Meadow Trust, Bramley & Little London Churches and Bramley C of E school.

As the date more or less fits in with anniversaries of the start of WWI and the D-Day landings of WWII, we're taking a bit of a military slant. We'll have an **army vehicle** rumbling onto the field and will end the day with hearty **war-time songs**, led by Bramley's own choir and supported by our local children.

If you're still lucky enough to be a child, you can be a guest at the **Teddy Bears' picnic**. Scrumptious food and cooling drinks – it's going to be hot! – will be on offer. The 'oldies' can have a taste of the **BBQ** or **Hog Roast**, washed down by a drink from the **Bar** (just the one!). And as you relax, listen to the **live band and disco**.

The more active among you can join the **Bramley Mile** - open to mums, dads and kids, it's a slightly shorter version of the London Marathon. If you think you've got the 'X' factor, join us on stage for **Bramley's Got Talent**. And for all you hearties who like a good heave-ho: get a team together and win the village crown for **Tug of War!**

Oh, and don't forget to bring some money (you teenagers have plenty of it, right?!). You can ride the **Bucking Bronco** - or cool off in a **Sumo Suit** after winning the **Bungee Run!** And there'll be plenty of local stalls where you can win prizes or ferret out a good bargain.

None of this would happen without **VOLUNTEERS!** You are like gold dust and we need more of you on or before the day. PLEASE, PLEASE, HELP!

For information about ANYTHING to do with the Fun Day email: [bramleyfunday@gmail.com](mailto:bramleyfunday@gmail.com) and we'll get back to you pronto. Thank you!

**Peter Hayes**

*We're sure you won't mind that Clift Meadow Trust, Bramley & Little London Churches and the Bramley School Association share any profits we might make. We're sure everyone in the village benefits from at least one of them at some time or other!*

# BRAMLEY FUN DAY

Saturday 7th June



## BRAMLEY'S GOT TALENT

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You have performed in front of the mirror.  
You played it with your friends.  
Now it is time to perform for real.

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We will contact you with more information nearer the time



**Bramley Fun Day: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June**  
**From 12.00 noon on Clift Meadow**



**Live Music from the The Lost Keys**

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**The Bramley Mile for families and children**

**Bramley's Got Talent – The Final!**

**Dog Show – with prizes!**

**Teddy Bears' Picnic – all children welcome!**

**Tug of War – get your team together!**

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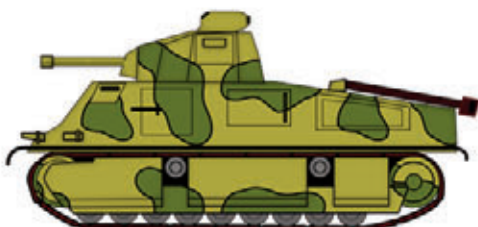
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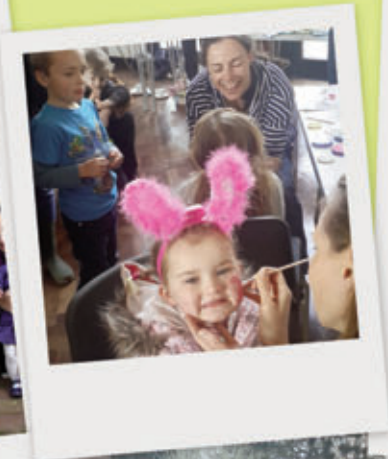
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# Easter Egg Hunt 2014





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# What did my ancestors do for me?

Rachel Holland

## Private Charles Simpson, died in Iraq 1917

Charles Simpson was born at Haines Farm, Silchester in 1887 and lived most of his life at Beaurepaire Farm in Sherborne St John. His father, George, was a farm labourer and he had two brothers and a sister. At the time of the 1901 census the family was at Pinks Farm, now known as Latchmere Green Farm. George was a carter and Charles an under-carter. By 1911 they were back at Beaurepaire Farm. Charles, aged 24 and still single, had become head carter. His father was now a waggoner and his brother, William, a labourer.

When war came, Charles joined the 5th battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment. This battalion became part of the 13th (Western) Division in the 40th Brigade, and in June 1915 was sent to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. The battalion supported operations at ANZAC Cove, Gallipoli, in 1915 before being deployed to Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq) in February 1916 to relieve the garrison at Kut. The British army had already occupied Basra, intending to protect the oilfields, as the navy needed large amounts of fuel for the war effort.

Kut was 100 miles south of Baghdad, and eight thousand British-Indian troops had been besieged there by the Ottoman army. Controversially, the garrison surrendered in April 1916, amid fierce fighting. Forces in the region were then reorganised, and the battalion fought on to defeat the Turks, capturing the city of Baghdad and the Berlin-Baghdad railway in March 1917.

Conditions for the troops in Mesopotamia were very poor. There were temperatures of up to 50° C to contend with. The land was desert, but prone to

flooding, with many flies and mosquitoes - leading to outbreaks of disease and death. The casualty rate was very high.

We know Charles was killed in action on 11th January 1917, at the age of 29. He is buried in the Amara war cemetery on the left bank of the river Tigris, alongside more than four thousand others. Amara was a hospital centre during the War and seven general hospitals were stationed there. In 1933 the headstones were removed when it was realised that salts in the soil were causing them to deteriorate. A wall was erected and engraved with the names of all those buried in the cemetery. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is not currently able to manage and maintain this cemetery, but there are pictures on the internet from people who have visited it. Herbert Hunt also died in Iraq, and is buried in the Basra war cemetery. You may have read about him in the September 2013 edition of Bramley Magazine.



Amara War Cemetery

## Bramley in 1887

Jay Hudson

Oh, what a to-do! ! This month in Bramley 1887 the village was trying to organise a celebration. A sort of Family Fun Day, if you will! These quotes are from the parish magazine... sound familiar?

"At the Public Meeting on April 26th (which, however very few of the "public" attended) it was resolved that a parish feast should be given to celebrate the Jubilee year of Queen Victoria's reign-that is if enough funds can be raised for the purpose...The idea is to make the day a general holiday: to have Divine Service, then have dinner about one or two o'clock for all inhabitants of the age of fifteen and upwards, and a tea later in the afternoon for our younger parishioners. A good

deal of trouble will have to be taken ... but it can all be managed if people set to work willingly, as I have no doubt they will. We shall want volunteers to cook and wait at table, but no subscription or payment will be asked of the cottagers. The day was fixed for Thursday June 16th...

"As to the place, it was thought that a tent would be too expensive to hire. Mr W Clift offered the use of the shed and barn at his " Upper Farm", and Mr Thornton offered his large new straw-shed at Beaurepaire. Though that is further off, opinion inclined towards it, as it is in the park, and would be convenient for cricket, sports, etc., after dinner. We must, of course, have a band. A committee was appointed to make further arrangements..."



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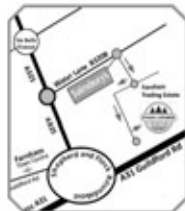
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## Bramley & Romans Floral Society

Eileen Gulston

April's meeting was an 'In-House Teach-In', with committee member Margaret Cropper. Her first demonstration was a very simple, but extremely effective arrangement of descending daffodils in a jam jar, inside a vase of the same height, encircled by small foliage.



Members enjoy tea during the workshop

This was followed by an Easter arrangement on a plate. A block of oasis was attached to the back edge of the container and the arrangement started with a few tallish twigs, followed by various spring flowers, irises, daffodils and tulips. Foliage filled in all the strategic gaps, with moss and stones placed at the base of the container. The arrangement was then decorated with Easter chicks and glass eggs.

For our "hands-on", we were asked to do our own interpretation on the same theme, spurred on by tea and home-made cake. By the end of the afternoon the hall was a blaze of spring flowers, chicks, eggs and even a rabbit. A wonderful Easter setting!

The meeting ended as usual with the raffle draw. Our next meeting on Thursday 1st May will be a demonstration by Mrs Ann-Marie Dicker entitled 'A Summer's Day'

The society meets on the first Thursday of the month at Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall at 1.30pm – visitors are always welcome. Please contact Eileen on [01256 881125](tel:01256881125) for more information.

## Bramley WI

Jane Matthews

A talk and slide-show by disabled sailor Geoff Holt MBE inspired many of our number last month, at the WI Spring Council Meeting in Portsmouth. He entertained with humorous accounts of crossing the Atlantic single handed and sailing around Great Britain. He broke his neck at the age of 18 - and the nurse who looked after him in hospital became his wife. They now have a 12 year old son who is also interested in sailing. Geoff is very determined, not letting his disabilities affect what he wants to achieve. His boat is adapted to his needs - and his wheelchair - as he is paralysed from the chest downwards. He has raised a lot of money for disability charities.



Here in Bramley, we spent an evening making an Easter gift of flowers in a square oasis, together with a nest containing a chick and an egg. Dusty, one of our members is also a

member of the Floral Society. She showed us how to do it, then we all had a go. The result? Flowers and foliage everywhere! But we had a laugh and ended up with some nice arrangements to take home. Grateful thanks to Dusty. Next month is our AGM and a 'bring and buy sale' with wine and nibbles. We also have to vote for this year's resolution.

## Bramley Show - Saturday August 30th

Anne Porter

As promised, here are some hints and tips on preparing your entries for the show.


- Always read the terms of the schedule carefully and stick to them.
- To avoid disqualification, always ensure you keep within the size limits, in particular for vegetables, flowers, floral art or photographs. Poor mounting can lose you marks in the needlework and craft sections.
- Vegetables - make sure they are clean, and try to match the size and shape. Runner and French beans should be straight, the stalks left on and facing the same way. "Onions prepared for show": The new thinking is to whip the tops (cut the tops off to about 1") or you can bend the tops over 1" and secure with raffia. Display them on a bed of sand or stand on rings (cut 1" rings from an empty kitchen roll). Carrots and beetroot look neater with the tops cut or torn off to about 3" or 4" then tied with raffia. Most fruit and vegetables can be



placed straight onto the table, unless stated otherwise in the schedule.

- When displaying your flowers, use the green vases provided. It can help to have some screwed up newspaper or oasis on hand to help hold the blooms to their best advantage. If one or three blooms are stated, make sure any buds are taken off. To gain points for a vase of annuals or perennials, the more different types of flowers, the better. Arrange them nicely, making sure the flowers and any foliage are in good condition.

I hope this is of some help. On the day, give yourself plenty of time to set up and prepare your exhibits. If you are unsure of anything please get in touch with me (tel. 01256 881691) or Mrs Gillie Edwards. Most important of all, have a go! Please enter and help make the show a success! There will be a full programme in the July/August issue of the Bramley magazine.



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# Bramley Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Malcolm Bell

A key decision for the Parish Council is where the new development should go. The Neighbourhood Planning Committee has identified a number of possibilities and will select the most suitable sites that can provide the right amount of new development. To do this, each site will be assessed against a range of criteria.

To make sure the decision-making process is transparent, the Steering Group is publishing these criteria, so people can see how the decision is being made and comment on whether they feel all the necessary factors are being taken into account:



SITE ASSESMENT CRITERIA	COMMENTS
Is the site available for development?	Is the landowner willing to release the site for development?
1 In 1 – 5 years	Yes / No
• In 5 – 10 years	Yes / No
• In 10 – 15 years	Yes / No
• Does the site contain or adjoin any ecologically or environmentally sensitive areas that would prevent or limit development?	If yes, does the statutory designation prevent, limit or affect the viability of development?
2 Habitat, nature conservation or SSSI designations	Yes / No
• Tree preservation orders	Yes / No
• Archaeological designations	Yes / No
• Conservation areas	Yes / No
• Listed buildings	Yes / No
• Landscape designations	Yes / No
• Is the site a green field site or a brown field site?	Yes / No Score Brownfield sites higher.
3 Is the site Grade 3a agricultural land or better?	Yes / No Exclude good quality agricultural land
4 Does the site have any infrastructure deficiencies that would affect the viability or practicability of development?	Yes / No
5 Does the site have a risk of flooding?	Yes / No
6 Is the site easily and safely accessible from the highway network?	Yes / No



SITE ASSESMENT CRITERIA	COMMENTS
7 Will the local traffic impact be acceptable in terms of the capacity of the existing road network? Can it be made acceptable?	Yes / No Exclude if the issue cannot be addressed.
8 Are community and social facilities reasonably accessible from the site?	Yes / No Score
9 Healthcare facilities	
• Local shops	
• Public transport – bus stops and train station	
• Community facilities	
• Local schools	
• Does the site lie within or adjoin the existing Settlement Policy Boundary?	Score Sites within the SPB score higher.
10 Are there any other planning or policy restraints which might affect the development of the site?	Provide details
11 What is the capacity of the site taking all the above considerations into account?	How many dwellings can the site support?
12 Would development of the site present opportunities to enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the village? e.g. impact on rural views	Score
13 Would development of the site present opportunities to enhance the sustainability of the village?	Score
14 Would development of the site present opportunities to create community benefits? e.g. provide appropriate open space	Score



Some of the above criteria must be satisfied for development to be considered at all (e.g. good vehicular access, a willing land owner, etc.). If the answer is no to these questions, then the site will be automatically eliminated. Other criteria can be assessed by scoring, with higher scores meaning the site is more suitable for development.

The Steering Group and the Parish Council is inviting local residents to comment on these criteria and to say if there are any other factors that should be taken into account in selecting sites for future development in Bramley.



## Parish Council news

Clr. Chris Holland

I hope you are enjoying the lovely Spring weather. The Parish Council (PC) is very busy at the moment trying to represent the community of Bramley. We meet formally at least once every month; the May meeting will be our AGM, on Monday 19th May in the Bramley Room at the Village Hall; we hope you will join us. Our meetings are open to the public; we publish agendas and minutes on the village noticeboards and website: [www.bramleypc.co.uk](http://www.bramleypc.co.uk). You can send the Parish Clerk a comment or question on [bramleypc.gov@gmail.com](mailto:bramleypc.gov@gmail.com), or visit the PC twitter [@bramleypc](https://twitter.com/bramleypc) or our Facebook page, 'Bramley, Hampshire'.



### Planning Inquiry.

The planning enquiry into Razors Farm has now concluded; Councillor Durrant attended many of the open sessions and represented the community. Initial feedback (11th April) suggests two of the contentious issues are how to curtail or manage the flow of traffic along Cufaude Lane and the construction of a railway station at Chineham. The PC is concerned that Network Rail (NR) is increasing the volume and speed of freight traffic; they are unlikely to increase the number of passenger stations. The challenge to Bramley is the road/rail/path interchange at the perceived centre of the village.

### Development in Bramley - update

The issue facing the community is whether the Borough can stop development in Bramley; if development is inevitable some would reason that collaboration with the developer will produce a better deal. After a public consultation event linked with a survey the PC captured the views of 172 residents. A majority wished the Council to work with potential developers through a process of negotiation. The main concerns raised were linked to inadequate infrastructure, in particular the need for a solution to parking for the railway station, and the queuing at the level crossing.

Councillors agree 100% with the concerns raised by residents and have aired their view to the Borough Council. The specific issue of the railway crossing can't be solved unless HCC Highways Department re-route the C32, which is not being considered; it is not funded or expected in the planning window up to 2029. The PC does not want any development in Bramley, but is now prepared to work pragmatically through negotiation to deliver the best available deal for the community.

The Developer Charles Church is submitting a planning application to the Borough to build 200 homes on the site adjacent to and east of Minchens Lane; the PC and every resident can view the application on the B&DBC website and make comments. The PC will remain a consultee in the planning application process and as such

retains the right to question detail hitherto unseen that will form part of the process. It remains essential that all the standard 22 planning requirements are met by the developers and builders; this is part of the standard application process and is followed as a matter of course by all parties.

There are other measures being taken to maintain Bramley as a village and to deter those who do not have business in Bramley but regard the C32 as part of their route.

I am mindful of the bigger development plan for Basingstoke and believe the Borough community is in for significant expansion over the next 25-50 years; we can't predict how development will affect our village community. The PC will continue to work for the best interests of the community.

### Local Infrastructure Projects

Last month I mentioned that I had sent an email to Bramley community clubs, societies and trusts concerning the Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF) for grants between £25k and up to approximately £400k. This month four Parish Councillors met with Borough Officers and our Borough Councillors to consider Bramley projects being proposed for consideration. It became clear that the Borough Officers believed that the proposal to 50% subsidise a NR footbridge met their criteria. The Parish Councillors argued strongly that they did not approve committing nearly all of the funds available over the next three years to a single project which would only benefit a small percentage of the community.

The funding currently available through the LIF in 2014/15 is the allocation of New Homes Bonus received by the Borough Council to date. As houses are built/occupied or demolished/unoccupied the LIF funding will change. Indicative LIF funding for 2015 onwards is subject to no change in current Government or council policy. The current proposal going forward is to have two rounds in each financial year (April-March); once the monies are committed it is unlikely significant new funds will be available. The PC is advised that each LIF application must have the support of a Borough



Councillor; the LIF guidance document recommends that the views of the PC are sought to inform the review process. The Borough Officers encourage applicants to consult with local stakeholders regarding their proposals.

As we have not been consulted by the applicant over the footbridge proposal and the views of the local stakeholders have not been sought, the Parish Councillors have asked for a pause in the allocation of funds to allow all affected parties to consider how best to work together for the good and the benefit of Bramley residents. The PC has offered to host a meeting on the site for interested groups: HCC, B&DBC, NR, local business and residents. We would hope to show there are safety challenges around the level crossing which could be solved with the support of NR and how adjustments to Footpath 13 and the safety measures on the C32 at the rail crossing could be combined to partly meet the needs of the community and the commuter.

### **Footbridge for Bramley (further information)**

The Parish Council News in the April edition of this magazine mentioned some of the detail and community opinion on the need for a footbridge at the Bramley Railway Station; this article should be seen as an update. In December 2010 Hampshire County Council recommended a footbridge with steps but no ramp; many stations, including Chandlers Ford (see photo), offer this option. In Bramley the footbridge would be at the end of the platform nearest the level crossing; NR permission would be required, as the structure would be sited on their land. HCC recommended that a full survey would be required, along with an agreement with NR and the utility companies to determine the likely cost implications. The PC did not receive the HCC assessment and was not consulted.

Parish Councillors have real concerns over the ongoing and worsening impact of the railway level-crossing on the quality of village life; it is clear that the barrier will be down for more time as the quantity of freight usage increases. The PC believes there should be a multi-faceted solution which takes into consideration: the route of the foot and cycle paths from German Road; the safety of the C32 for 200m either side of the level crossing; environmental protection at the level crossing and a possible method for pedestrians to cross the railway whilst the barriers are down. The current proposal is focussed on able-bodied rail passengers; standard NR policy is that the public are not allowed to enter or use NR property unless they are passengers. It could be concluded that

whilst 75% of respondents to a recent community survey expressed a wish for a rail footbridge, a high majority of those people would not gain any benefit from the bridge, since it is only intended for fare-paying passengers.

The main concern of residents is a need to improve the infrastructure of Bramley, something that has gone amiss over the years whilst the community has had housing development imposed. Improvement in recreational facilities, plus enhanced safety measures around the railway level crossing are perceived as more important than a footbridge. The Bramley NDP conducted a survey; passengers were divided near enough equally going to Reading and Basingstoke, with the peaks at 0640 to 0840 leaving Bramley, and returning between 1643 and 1749. Results are on the Bramley NDP website,

[www.bramleyndp.org.uk](http://www.bramleyndp.org.uk), with comments as to what those residents consulted want to see improved in Bramley. B&DBC support neighbourhood



Example of a similar footbridge to one type being suggested at Bramley

planning; the PC has advised the Borough Officers that they hope other considerations can be assessed before the Borough Council reaches a conclusion on the local infrastructure needs of Bramley.

### **Conclusions**

It is good news that the PC is now being consulted over the allocation of the LIF; it is hoped the outcome will be £500,000 being spent on the prioritised needs of Bramley. Specifically with regard to the footbridge, all residents are asked to consider the issues and offer their views. If you have ideas for how funds could be spent to improve the local infrastructure please let me know or email the Parish Clerk at: [bramleypc.gov@gmail.com](mailto:bramleypc.gov@gmail.com).

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# Pamber Parish Council Notes for Little London

E.A.Knight

The Pamber Parish Council met on 14th April 2014.

## Commemorations of the 70th Anniversary of D-Day.

The first event will take place on Saturday, 7th June 2014 in Pamber Park. Parishioners are invited to a WW2 picnic in the afternoon and the lighting of the beacon in the evening. See the website and notice boards for more details soon.

## Review of Local Bus and Community Transport Services

This is a very important review which will affect our community. The consultation process continues until 31st May. Councillors urge everyone to look at this and respond as individuals. This link will take you to the appropriate page on the Hampshire County Council website:

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/transportconsultation2014>

## Annual Parish Meeting

This will be held in St. Stephen's Hall, Little London on 12th May 2014 at 8pm.

The guest speaker will be the Chairman of the St. Stephen's Hall Management Committee; he will

speaking on the future of the Hall. There will be reports by the Chairman of the Parish Council and various other organisations. This is your opportunity to hear about the work of the Parish Council, to comment and ask questions.



## Grants

A grant of £175 was awarded to the Tadley and District Citizens Advice Bureau; the service is used by a number of people from Pamber and so it was agreed that it should be supported.

## Next Meeting

The Annual and Monthly Meeting of Pamber Parish Council will be held at 7pm on 12th May 2014 in St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. The Annual Parish Meeting will follow at 8pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend. All parishioners are welcome to attend. Details of meetings are displayed on the notice boards and on the website.

Website [www.pamber-pc.gov.uk](http://www.pamber-pc.gov.uk)  
E.A.Knight (Clerk) 01256 882571

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# Police Report

PCSO 14877 James Rickaby

## Rogue Traders

You may remember one of my previous articles, discussing Distraction Burglary. Rogue Trading is also a serious crime and anybody can be a victim - however, offenders often target the elderly and vulnerable. 'Rogue Traders' often tell the victim that some sort of maintenance work is required on or around their premises, and a large sum of money is needed to carry it out. Unfortunately, some Rogue Traders are vicious enough to repeatedly visit a victim and demand more money for continuing work or maintenance, which often results in the victim feeling intimidated, scared and helpless to refuse further work being done.

The following advice can help:

### **LOCK. STOP. CHAIN. CHECK.**

- Keep front and back doors locked.
- Always use the door chain. If you're not sure - don't open the door.
- Always check credentials of unknown callers. Do not phone the number on their ID card, use a phone book or a bill to look it up.
- Never employ cold-calling doorstep traders or engage with cold-callers on the phone.
- Do not keep substantial sums of money in your home.
- Consider joining or setting up a No Cold Calling Zone or Neighbourhood Watch scheme.
- Report any suspicious callers or activity to the police immediately.
- Keep an eye on elderly or vulnerable neighbours, friends and family.

If anyone has - or wants - more information, contact the Hampshire Trading Standards Doorstep Crime Quick Response Team: 01962 833666 (Monday - Friday 0900hrs to 1700hrs). Specially trained officers are on hand to provide advice. You can contact Hampshire Police on our non-urgent number 101 - or dial 999 if you feel threatened or intimidated.

## Off Road Driving / Riding around Bramley

There have been several reports of 'mini-moto' motorbikes being ridden on public areas in and around Bramley. Police Officers have warned the owner of one such motorbike that this behaviour is unlawful and a Road Traffic Offence. The penalties for such an offence include a heavy fine, possible seizure of the vehicle and, ultimately, the vehicle being destroyed.

If you have an off-road motorbike, it must only be used in areas to which the public have no access (private property) or in areas where such activity is permitted (e.g., Scramble Bike meets/races and organised motorbike events). If you are unsure - check. Don't run the risk.

## Graffiti.

Unfortunately, there seems to have been a small increase in graffiti in and around the village over the last month, ranging from obscene comments on lamp-posts to fences and buildings being sprayed with paint. These incidents constitute criminal damage. Hampshire Constabulary will actively seek to prosecute anybody involved in such behaviour, which could lead to having criminal record. Please could I ask all residents to report any such incidents as soon as possible by calling 101.

## Emergency.

As always, please can I ask all residents to report any suspicious persons, vehicles or incidents using the 101 telephone number. Please only ring 999 if it is a genuine emergency.



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### Improvers Ballroom & Latin Class:

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FRIDAYS

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### Stage 2 Beginners Latin American Class:

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### Stage 2 Beginners Ballroom Class:

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## Are you a computer whiz?

Liz Kavanagh

**A**ge Concern Hampshire is looking for IT volunteers to show older people how to get to grips with the Internet and use a PC.



The charity is offering free one-to-one sessions at Chineham Library in Basingstoke on Wednesday mornings. The lessons provide invaluable advice on how to get the most from a desktop computer, laptop, iPod or tablet and are tailored to individual needs. If you might be able to help, please contact Age Concern Hampshire: Freephone 0800 328 7154.

## Struggling to pay your council tax bill?

### Struggling to pay your council tax bill?

Have you fallen behind on your council tax bill, or are you struggling to keep up with your regular payments?

Many councils have been cutting back on the help that was available towards council tax bills since April last year. As a result, you may now be having to pay something towards your council tax for the first time. With many other household bills going up and money being tight, you're not alone. Many people are getting deeper into debt, just to stay on top of their day-to-day budgets.

If you're in this situation, it's best to try and deal with the problems as soon as possible, rather than wait for things to get out of control. To start with, you could work out how much money you've got coming in and going out, and how much you may be able to offer to the council towards your council tax. It's best to try and come to an agreement with the council as soon as you can, before they take further action, such as taking you to court and sending bailiffs round to collect the money you owe.

If you've got other debts, you may be able to ask your other creditors if you can change your repayments. This could leave you with a bit more money for your council tax.

## Seeking retired civil servants

David Cowling

**T**he Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship is looking for members in Bramley to join its ranks. The group meets monthly for talks and trips, among other things.

'Sex lives of Kings' was the talk at our most recent meeting. We enjoyed an historical - and often amusing - look at the intrigue, murder, mixed marriages and bloody battles of our monarchy through the ages.

There will be an open meeting on Wednesday 28th May at 2pm with a cream tea and 'bring and buy' sale.



If you feel you can't deal with everything on your own, you can get help from your local Citizens Advice Bureau or another advice agency.

### Need further information or Help?

Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau (located within Basingstoke Discovery Centre) can help you with queries you have on budgeting, benefits and debt, relationships, immigration, employment issues, and consumer rights. We operate a drop-in service 10-3.30 Monday to Friday (except Thursday) and Saturday mornings 10-12.

The Advice Line telephone number is 0844 245 1283.

Online help from Citizens Advice can be found at [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

Future outings include:

- Friday 16th May - The Hawk Conservancy
- Tuesday 17th June  
- Portsmouth Historic Dockyard
- Monday 21st July  
- Wakehurst Place and Gardens

The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10am-12noon. All retired Civil Servants and their partners are welcome. At the next meeting on 7th May there will be a talk by Lynne Caine about BASICS Hampshire.

For details about the group please contact Tony Brazier on 01256 418770 or email [bjmapbr@ntlworld.com](mailto:bjmapbr@ntlworld.com); for information about our trips, call Kate Lambeth on 01256 328791.

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## Views from our Borough Councillors

Councillor Chris Tomblin

I hope you all had a happy Easter break! We now have the Bramley Fun Day to look forward to on Saturday June 7th. If you have a classic car, please would you contact me?

The Razor's Farm planning application for 420 houses had gone to appeal as Croudace had claimed that the Borough had not made a timely planning decision. I have previously reported that the Borough planning committee then chose to reject the application should it have had the chance to see it brought to the committee. This meant that the Council would oppose the application at the public inquiry and hire a legal team to defend its position.

However on Monday 7th, the day before the start of the inquiry, an urgent planning meeting was convened. Members were told that the expert witness consultants had decided that new information provided by Croudace regarding the Borough's concerns were satisfactorily addressed and so they could not support the Borough's case. Members of the committee were not given the detailed papers but learnt that a proposed, Croudace-funded, bus service to the town (supported for only three years) and mitigation against industrial noise by way of non-opening triple glazing and special ventilation systems would therefore provide a sustainable development! Unfortunately a 7 to 5 (politically divided) vote by members meant that the Borough would now not defend their original objection.

So the next day I went to the inquiry to speak against the development. Bramley Parish Council, Chineham Parish Council and two ward members from Chineham also spoke well, informing the Inspector of the issues faced by the local community should this development go ahead. Our other ward member spoke in support of the development, requesting that Cufaude Lane be blocked off to northbound traffic. We await the Inspector's and Secretary of State's verdict...

The Council has agreed the revisions to the new Local Plan and consultation will be from the 25th April to the 13th June. The team can be contacted on (01256) 845450 /845410 or by email [local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk)

The New Homes Bonus fund means Bramley could be allocated £450,000 over the next five years to improve community infrastructure. Originally it was thought that these funds would be applied for by local groups. It appears that the Borough favours projects where funds are matched by other contributions. There has been a suggestion that we contribute it all towards a station footbridge. Let me know your thoughts on this urgent matter

email: - [cllr.chris.tomblin@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.chris.tomblin@basingstoke.gov.uk)  
phone: 01256 880558

Councillor Ranil Jayawardena

My work to get a footbridge across the railway continued this month. I chaired a meeting at the Borough Council between myself, Council Officers, Councillor Tomblin and the Parish Council. Unfortunately, the Parish Council was still unable to provide their support for a footbridge. This is a shame, because Network Rail has said that they will fund half of the costs of the footbridge if the Borough Council funds the other half, which, through the Local Infrastructure Fund, we can. As a result, no decision has yet been taken by the Borough Council but, the longer we leave this, the greater the likelihood that Network Rail's money gets spent elsewhere.

I also spoke at the Public Inquiry on the Razor's Farm planning application. Specifically, I argued that the planning application as currently put forward is ill thought through because of the resulting traffic impact. My suggestions to the Planning Inspector were that, in the event he decides to approve the application, (a) Cufaude Lane should be restricted, to stop traffic coming into Bramley from the development, (b) a link road between Hanmore Road in Chineham and the A33 at the Taylor's Farm Roundabout should be built, to ensure that traffic can get to the A33 more easily than via Bramley or Chineham, and (c) developers' contributions should not be wasted on a commercially unviable bus service, but should be invested into building a railway station for Chineham, to reduce the number of people driving to Bramley and parking here.

Residents in Farriers Close will remember that I have previously sought to protect 'Forge Field' from development, so that it remains an open space that local residents can enjoy. This remains my position, so I have continued to push this at the Borough Council and am pleased that we are getting closer to securing written protection for this open space.

Some of the building frontages in the Top of the Town in Basingstoke have not been well maintained, are poorly designed and are not in keeping with the character of the area. Set to be launched shortly, the Council has set aside £40,000 to provide matched funding for improvements to buildings that face on to the main streets in the area, to improve their appearance. I hope more property owners will be encouraged to follow the lead of buildings such as The United Reformed Church and The Willis Museum, which have both had a recent facelifts.

My residents' survey remains open online at [www.TellRanil.com](http://www.TellRanil.com) so, if you would like to have your say on local, national and international policy or I can be of assistance, please contact me or visit my website.

email: - [cllr.ranil.jayawardena@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.ranil.jayawardena@basingstoke.gov.uk)  
phone: 01256 636500

# What's on in Bramley this week?

Regular events for May

<p><b>Sundays</b></p> <p><b>Church services at St James</b> 9.00 and 10.30 see Church Diary for details</p>	<p><b>Mondays</b></p> <p><b>Parish Council Meetings</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month - Village Hall <b>Pilates</b> Clift Meadow Pavilion <b>Zumba</b> - 9am - Cross House <b>Beavers</b> – Clift Meadow <b>Cubs</b> – Clift Meadow <b>Circuits</b> – Clift Meadow <b>Badminton</b> – Village Hall</p>	<p><b>Tuesdays</b></p> <p><b>0-5 club</b> Clift Meadow Pavilion <b>Dance Club (Petite School)</b> Village Hall <b>Slimming World</b> Village Hall <b>Zumba</b> - 7pm- Cross House <b>Community Choir</b> 7.30pm Sherfield School <b>Short Mat Bowls</b> – V Hall <b>Badminton</b> – Village Hall <b>Karate</b> - Primary School Hall <b>Bell Ringing</b> – St James</p>
<p><b>Wednesdays</b></p> <p><b>Rainbows</b> – Village Hall</p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Bramley Brownies</b> Village Hall</p> <p><b>Scouts</b> – Village Hall</p> <p><b>Pilates</b> – Village Hall</p> <p><b>Circuits</b> - Primary School Hall</p>	<p><b>Thursdays</b></p> <p><b>Bramley &amp; Romans Floral Society</b>– 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, Sherfield on Loddon V Hall <b>WI</b> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, Village Hall <b>Lunch Club</b> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday - Cross House <b>WI Lite</b> – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, Village Hall <b>Circuits</b> - Clift Meadow Pavilion <b>Short Mat Bowls</b> – V Hall <b>Dance Club (Petite)</b> - V Hall <b>Dance Club</b> - Primary School Hall</p>	<p><b>Fridays</b></p> <p><b>Circuits</b> Clift Meadow Pavilion</p> <p><b>Royal British Legion social evenings</b> 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Bramley Inn 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday The Swan SSJ 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday Four Horseshoes SOL 4<sup>th</sup> Friday The Plough LL</p> <p><b>Saturdays</b> <b>Dance School</b> – Village Hall</p>

## Contact Details for Village Clubs and Organisations

Organisation	Name	Tel No	Email / Website	Remarks
Parish Council	Tracy Predeth	07810 692486	www.bramleypc.co.uk bramleypc.gov@gmail.com	Not for bookings
Clift Meadow	Eileen Gulston	881125	e.e.gulston@btinternet.com	Bookings
Cross House	Judy Harrison	880644	crosshousebramley@yahoo.co.uk	Bookings
Village Hall	Eileen Gulston	881125		Bookings
School Hall	Julie Francis	881339		
Badminton	Jane Matthews	881214		
Bell ringers	Terry Cooper	881102		
Brownies	Suzanne Cox	07920 822221	suzanne-cox@hotmail.com	Now Weds only
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Jodie Saunders	881113	communications@bramley-scouts.org.uk.	
Community Choir	Dorian Edwards	07825 616759	www.singhealthy.co.uk	
Country Music	Roy Seymour	07917 744780		No children please
Dance Club (Petite)	Louise Onslow	883568		
Exercise classes	Caroline Sherlock	880277		
Floral Society	Joyce Rawlinson	889040		
Lunch Club	Pat Jones	882441		
Royal British Legion	Gareth Doust	881984	bramleyrbl@gmail.com	
Short Mat Bowls	Val Monger Jan Miller	881434 883344		
WI	Anne Porter	881691		
WI Lite	Sarah Spencer		k_srah@hotmail.com	
Little Apples	Jo Whatley & Sian Davies	886408	manager@littleapples.org	
Trail Runners	Richard Perkins		richardperkins@yahoo.com	Mon & Wed 19.30 Clift Meadow Car park
Zumba	Julie Spencer	07765 066651	info@ca-boom.co.uk	





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